

A TO Z INDIA

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18

RAMDHARI
SINGH DINKAR

► CHANDRA



Indian Culture ● Indian Art ● Indian Lifestyle ● Indian Religion

***Beautiful view on
Suleymaniye Mosque.***





04

EDITORIAL: JUNE MEANING AND SYMBOLISM

Solar energy is a radiating theme for the month of June meaning and symbolism. And, if you enjoyed this article, be sure to check out the other pages in this magazine. Thanks for reading, and have a happy June!

08

INCREDIBLE INDIA: IMAGES OF INDIA THROUGH PAINTWORK

A rare watercolour splash hand drawn artwork collection which portrays incredible India.

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KNOW MY NAME: ARUNA ASAF ALI

"He who is not courageous enough to take risks will accomplish nothing in life."—Aruna Asaf Ali

FROM THE EDITOR

A TO Z INDIA magazine covers the Indian through his art, culture, lifestyle, religion, etc. This magazine gives an insight into the life of Indians from an angle uncovered by others. Turn to find out what it is about and to immerse yourself into an entirely different culture.

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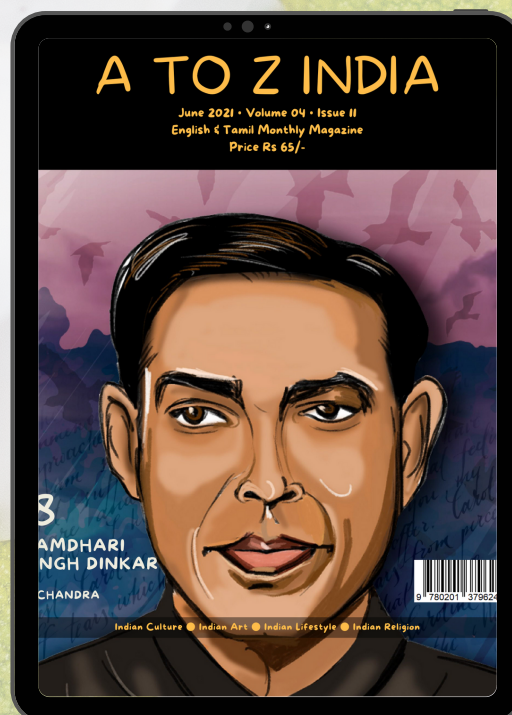
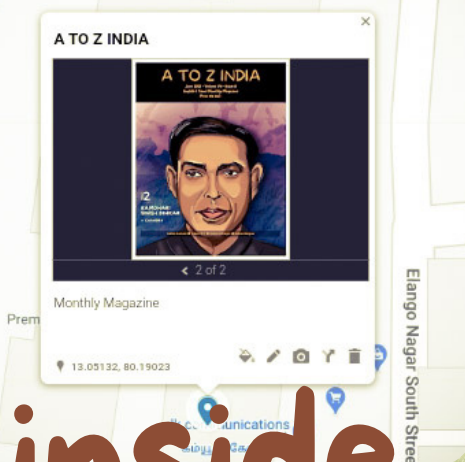
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A TO Z INDIA:

EDITORIAL ADDRESS





Editorial: June Meaning and Symbolism

 **Indira Srivatsa**

Exploring June meaning and symbolism: Every month has a special flavor – a feeling that is unique to its own transitional span of time. June is no different. 😊 😊





June (in the northern hemisphere of the world) is a sunny month and by association, June symbols are equally bright and radiant. I did some research as to why June is ubiquitously known as the month for weddings and brides. 😊

I didn't like what I found. According to my findings, June is just a runner-up month for nuptials. It seems May is considered an "unlucky" month in which to be married, so weddings were historically pushed in. I'd much rather think that wedding bells chime in June because of the month's sunny disposition. It's a cheerful month, and Nature is in full-swing. 😊 😊

Solar energy is a radiating theme for the month of June meaning and symbolism. And, if you enjoyed this article, be sure to check out the other pages in this magazine. 😊 Thanks for reading, and have a happy June! 😊

"What is so rare as a day in June? It is then or never when our most perfect days come."

~James Lowell

Indira Srivatsa

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A.P.J. ABDUL KALAM

WHEN DREAMS TAKE FLIGHT



If a country is to be corruption free and become a nation of beautiful minds, I strongly feel there are three key societal members who can make a difference. They are the father, the mother and the teacher.

- A.P.J. Abdul Kalam





Incredible India: Images of India through Paintwork



 **Chandra**





Incredible India: Images of India through Paintwork



 **Chandra**



மிகல்மேவல் மெய்ப்பொருள் காணார் இகல்மேவல்
இன்னா அறிவினவர்.

- திருக்குறள்

தன்னை உயர்வாய் நினைத்து
செருக்குக் கொள்ளும் பேர்கள்
உண்மையான பொருளை
ஒருநாளும் உணரமாட்டார்

மாறுபட்ட போக்கு
உள்ளவர்கள் வாழ்வில்
இன்னல்களைத் தேடும்
அறிவுடையவர் ஆவர்.



பொன்மொழிகள்

♦ 'வாழ்க வளமுடன்' என ஒருவரை வாழ்த்தினால் பலவினம் நீங்கி வளர்ச்சிக்கான கதவு திறக்கும்.

- வேதாத்திரி மகரிஷி

♦ புன்முறுவல் காட்டவும், அன்போடு பேசவும் கூட நேரமில்லாதது போல் நடக்க வேண்டாம்.

- வேதாத்திரி மகரிஷி

♦ உண்மை எது?... பொய் எது?..... என்பது தெரியாமல் வதந்திகளைப் பரப்பக்கூடாது.

- வேதாத்திரி மகரிஷி

♦ மனதாலும் பிறர்க்குத் தீங்கிழைக்கக் கூடாது. விளையாட்டாகக்கூடப் பொய் சொல்லக் கூடாது.

- ஜெயேந்திரர்

♦ நான் அடிமையாக இருக்க மாட்டேன். ஆகவே நான் எஜமானனாகவும் இருக்க மாட்டேன். இதுதான் ஜனநாயகக் கோட்பாடு.

பாட்டின் அடிப்படைத் தத்துவம்.

- ஆபிரஹாம் லிங்கன்.

♦ கடந்துபோன நிமிடத்தை விஸைக்கு வாங்கி அனுபவிக்க முடிகிற அளவிற்கு இந்த உலகில் யாரும் பணக்காரர்கள் இல்லை.

- ஆஸ்கார் ஓயில்ட்

♦ பூக்களின் வாயிலாக பூமி சிரிக்கிறது.

- எம்ர்சன்

♦ வெளிச்சத்தைப் பார்த்தபடி நில். நிழல் பின்னுக்குப் போகும்.

- வால்ட் விட்மேன்

♦ கைக்கு அருகில் உள்ள முதல் கடமையை ஆற்றுங்கள். அடுத்த கடமை என்ன என்பது தன்னாலே புலப்படும்.

- தாமஸ் கார்லைல்

♦ குற்றத்தைத் தேடிக்கொண்டிருக்கிற மனம் மாசடைந்து கொண்டே இருக்கிறது.

- எம்ர்சன்



The Param Vir Chakra is the most important military award in India. Since its institution on 26 January, 1950, it has been awarded to 21 bravehearts of the Indian Armed Forces.

To be considered worthy of this honour, a warrior needs to display the utmost courage in the field of battle. Whether on land, at sea, or in the air, he must display the willingness to sacrifice all when faced by the enemy.



PARAM VIR CHAKRA

THE ULTIMATE HONOUR

Weapons and Vehicles

Gnat: The Folland Gnat was the last plane made by British aircraft designer WEW Petter. This subsonic light fighter aircraft, which was also used as a jet trainer, was characterised by its small size, angled wings and simple design. It carried a crew of one pilot, two 30mm ADEN cannons, two bombs and 18 three-inch rockets. It had a range of 800km and a maximum speed of 1120kmph at 20,000ft.



The Gnat was inducted into the Indian Air Force in 1958, and was widely used. Later, the IAF began to manufacture it under license. Eventually, the design was improved and the modifications resulted in HAL Ajeet.

Bren Guns/Light Machine Guns: Automatic handheld guns that are designed to be fired by a single soldier without assistance. They typically use smaller caliber cartridges, but have heavier barrels than rifles.

Medium Machine Guns: An automatic firearm that uses cartridges fed by an ammunition belt. They are designed to be fired from a stationary position. It is portable, but typically needs more than one person to carry.

Rifles with bayonets: Firearms that shoot bullets with great precision because of the grooves cut in the inner surface of the barrel. Bayonets are dagger-like weapons that can be attached to the muzzle of a rifle to be used in hand-to-hand combat.

Recoilless Guns: Lightweight tube artillery that, at the moment of ignition, expels a large amount of the propellant gases that creates a forward push to counter the gun's backward momentum when fired. This way, the gun can launch a powerful projectile, without getting the heavy recoil of a cannon.



Rocket Launcher: Artillery device used to launch a projectile propelled by a rocket. There are smaller ones that can be carried on the shoulder, while larger ones can be mounted on jeeps.

Khukri: A specialised knife with a curved broad blade. The khukri is the characteristic weapon of the Gorkha regiments.

Spitfires: British single-seater fighter aircraft that the Indian Air Force began using in October 1944. These are short-range and high performance aircraft that were designed, and commonly used to prevent bombers and enemy recon aircraft from completing their missions.

Anti-tank jeeps: Jeeps that come equipped with weapon systems designed to hit and destroy heavily armoured vehicles, especially tanks.

Armoured cars: Combat vehicles that are protected by strong armour and bulletproof glass, enabling them to withstand shrapnel, bullets or shells from enemy fire. These vehicles are heavily equipped with weapons, making them both offensive and defensive mobile units used to carry troops into battle.

Surface to Air missiles: Missiles launched from the ground, designed to take down aircraft

Mine detectors: A handheld device used for locating buried or concealed anti-tank mines. They typically work by identifying the presence of metal in the ground.

Centurion tanks: Developed and manufactured in Great Britain, Centurion tanks began being used in 1945. They were heavily armed main battle tanks that weighed 51,820kg. One tank could carry a crew of four, and moved at a speed of 34kmph.

Centurion tanks were used in India during the 1965 war with Pakistan. All the tanks were assigned names, by which they were referred to during the war. Second Lieutenant Arun Khetarpal's tank was a Centurion tank named Famagusta.



Second Lieutenant Arun Khetarpal's tank, Famagusta, restored and kept in display by the Indian Army

In Times of Peace

What do the Armed Forces do in peace time? Is there a role for them when there is no war?

The primary role of the Armed Forces is to defend the nation against external aggression. Success in war comes to those who are well equipped and trained. The Armed Forces, therefore, constantly train themselves so that they are better prepared than the adversary for any eventuality.

India has very long borders which mostly do not follow geographic features. Most of our borders are active and conflict prone due to difference in perception with our neighbours. In order to guard these active borders, especially in mountainous and inhospitable terrain, the Army remains deployed to thwart recurring encroachment attempts and to battle relentless ceasefire violations. The Air Force and the Navy remain in a state of readiness to respond to any impending air or sea threats to our country.

Armed Forces units and formations, stationed in peace locations, follow a rigorous training routine which include physical and weapon training, arms/equipment repair and maintenance tasks, in order to remain operationally ready. Regular two-sided exercises and war games in which various defensive and offensive scenarios are enacted, are undertaken to validate and update operational plans and battle procedures. Logistic planning and preparation for operations and contingencies are also undertaken.

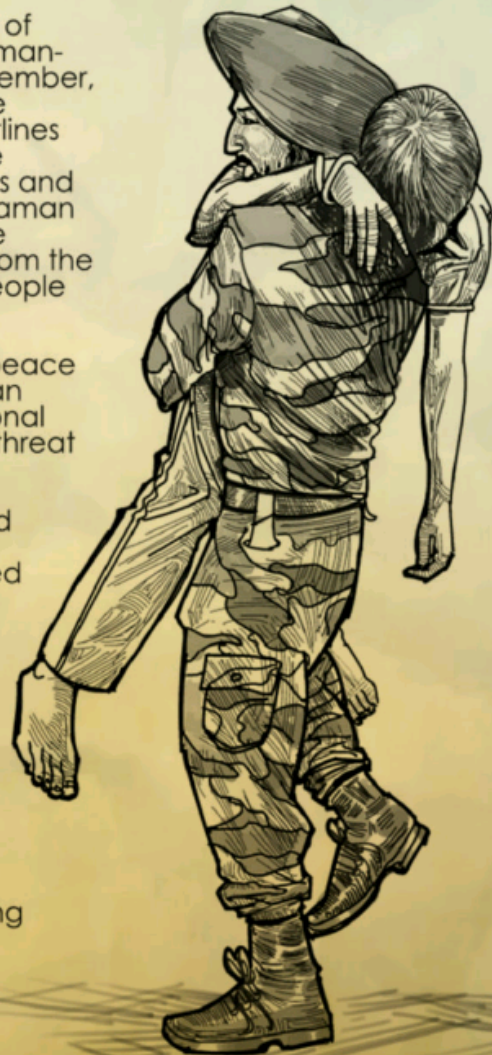
The Armed Forces are called upon to assist in times of internal disorders and calamities both natural and man-made such as floods, earthquakes etc. On 26 December, 2004, when a devastating tsunami swept across the Indian Ocean submerging islands, destroying coastlines and taking thousands of lives, the Air Force and the Navy swung into action carrying out rescue missions and transporting medical and food supplies to the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Sri Lanka and the Maldives. More recently the floods in Jammu & Kashmir saw men from the Armed Forces deployed in rescuing hundreds of people from the fury of the rising water.

The Armed Forces are also called upon to restore peace and order during internal strife and unrest. The Indian Navy by patrolling the waters, guards the international shipping corridors in the Indian Ocean against the threat of piracy and terrorism.

Apart from securing the nation against external and internal threats, the Indian Army has been involved in nation building initiatives too through multifaceted activities such as laying bridges, providing medical facilities, running educational and vocational training, etc., for common people especially in inaccessible areas of J&K and the north-eastern states.

When mandated, the Armed Forces also participate in conflict prevention in neighbouring countries as during Operation Pawan in Sri Lanka (1987) and Operation Cactus in the Maldives (1988).

The Armed Forces also participate in peace-keeping missions of the United Nations under the UN Flag.



PVC Awardees



Major Somnath Sharma
1922-1947
Indo-Pak War (1947-48)



Lance Naik Karam Singh
1915-1993
Indo-Pak War (1947-48)



Second Lieutenant Rama Raghoba Rane
1915-1994
Indo-Pak War (1947-48)



Naik Yadunath Singh
1916-1948
Indo-Pak War (1947-48)



Company Havildar Major Pitu Singh Shekhawat
1918-1948
Indo-Pak War (1947-48)



Captain Gurbachan Singh Salaria
1935-1961
Congo Crisis (1960-65)



Major Dhan Singh Thapa
1928-2005
Sino-Indian War (1962)



Subedar Joginder Singh
1921-1962
Sino-Indian War (1962)



Major Shailan Singh
1924-1962
Sino-Indian War (1962)



Company Quarter Master Havildar Abdul Hamid
1933-1965
Indo-Pak War (1965)



Lieutenant-Colonel Ardeshr Burzorji Tarapore
1923-1965
Indo-Pak War (1965)



Lance Naik Albert Ekka
1942-1971
Bangladesh Liberation War (1971)



Flying Officer Nirmaljit Singh Sekhon
1943-1971
Bangladesh Liberation War (1971)



Second Lieutenant Arun Khetarpal
1950-1971
Bangladesh Liberation War (1971)



Major Hashiar Singh
1937-1998
Bangladesh Liberation War (1971)



Naib Subedar Bana Singh
Born 1949
Siachen Conflict



Major Ramaswamy Parameswaran
1946-1987
Operation Pawan (1987)



Captain Manoj Kumar Pandey
1975-1999
Kargil War (1999)



Grenadier Yogendra Singh Yadav
Born 1980
Kargil War (1999)



Rifleman Sanjay Kumar
Born 1976
Kargil War (1999)



Captain Vikram Batra
1974-1999
Kargil War (1999)

Know My Name:

Aruna Asaf Ali

Chandra

"He who is not courageous enough to take risks will accomplish nothing in life."

– Aruna Asaf Ali

Commonly referred to as the "Grand Old Lady" of the independence movement, or the "Heroine of the 1942 movement," Aruna Asaf Ali is perhaps best known for flying the Indian flag at Gowalia Tank Maidan in 1942, thereby saving the Quit India movement from an untimely death. British authorities had just arrested the movement's leaders, and Ali was determined not to stand idly by in their absence. She bravely raised the Indian flag in full public view, an act of rebellion that sparked a chain of protests and civil disobedience around the country.

Before that, she taught in Calcutta, married India National Congressman Asaf Ali, and engaged in the fight for Indian freedom. She took part in the Salt Satyagraha demonstrations of 1930, during which she got arrested for the first time. When she remained in prison after the



Gandhi-Irwin Pact of 1931 (which protected political prisoners), there was such a public uproar that the authorities had to release her.

Ali was arrested again in 1932, but continued her resistance in jail. She went on a hunger strike to object to the conditions political prisoners faced at Tihar Jail. Her protest led to changes at the jail, but she was punished with solitary confinement in Ambala.

In 1942, after Ali's famous political statement of raising the flag, the police issued a warrant and reward for her arrest. To avoid capture, she went into hiding for



Know My Name:

Aruna Asaf Ali

Chandra

four years. She remained active underground, however, working on the Congress Party's monthly magazine with Ram Manohar Lohia.

After India gained independence in 1947, Ali dedicated herself to social reform, including women's and workers' rights. She published Patriot newspaper and Link magazine; became the first Mayor of Delhi in 1958; and won the International Lenin Peace Prize in 1964 and the Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding in 1991. In 1992, Ali earned the Padma Vibhushan, India's second highest civilian honor, then the highest, the Bharat Ratna, in 1997.



Indian Poet: Ramdhari Singh Dinkar

 **Chandra B**

Another poet who is hailed as a Rashtrakavi and has given India some of the most inspiring poems is Ramdhari Singh Dinkar. He participated in the freedom struggle as a leader, poet and a member of the parliament.

Ramdhari was born in Simaria in the Bengal Presidency during British India in 1908. As a young student, he was interested in history, politics and philosophy and had studied a multitude of languages. He was greatly



influenced by Rabindranath Tagore and translated works of Tagore from Bengali to Hindi. His poetry shows the impact of his poverty as unlike most of his peers he had to struggle due to his family economic circumstances.

One of his most famous works is, Sanskrit ke Chaar Adhyay for which he was awarded the Sahitya Akademi award. He wrote this in the context of values emerging



Indian Poet: Ramdhari Singh Dinkar

 **Chandra B**

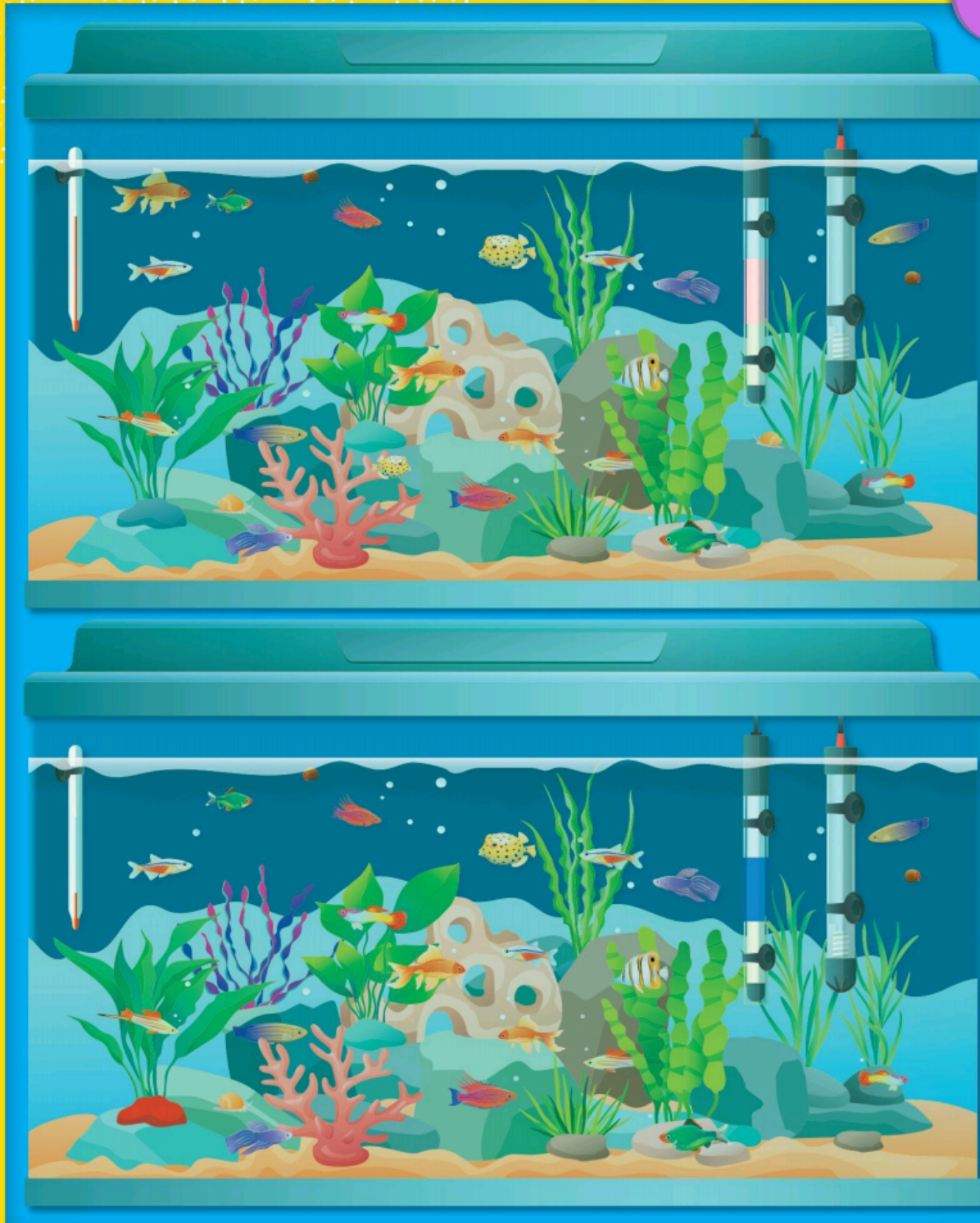
from the freedom movement such as anti-colonialism, secularism, and integrated culture. A rebel at heart, he fiercely supported the youth, burning with the flame of

vengeance against the British. His beliefs were strong and influential, giving voice to the freedom struggle's more revolutionary movements. It is believed that his poetry created a sense of awakening in the youth, drawing allegories with heroes of the Mahabharatha and Ramayana, such as Karna. His work Rashmirathi is considered one of the best versions of the Mahabharata. He was awarded the Padma Bhushan for his inspiring patriotic compositions.



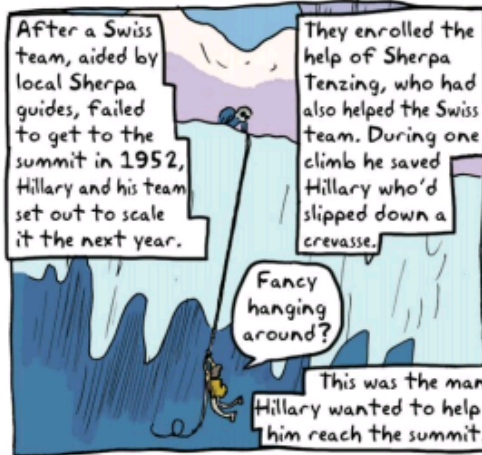
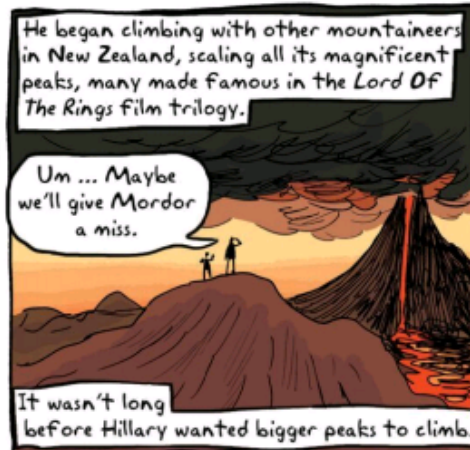
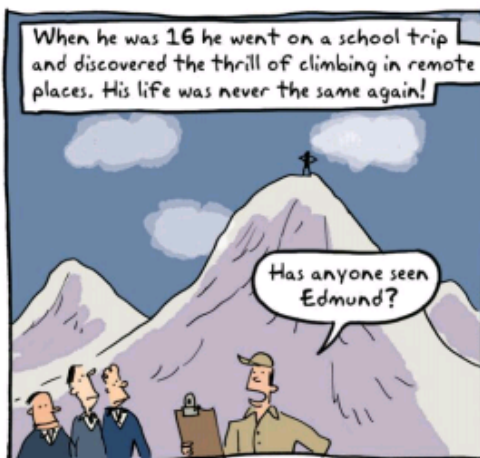
SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

See if you can spot
TEN differences
between these two
fishy scenes!



CLIMBING EVEREST

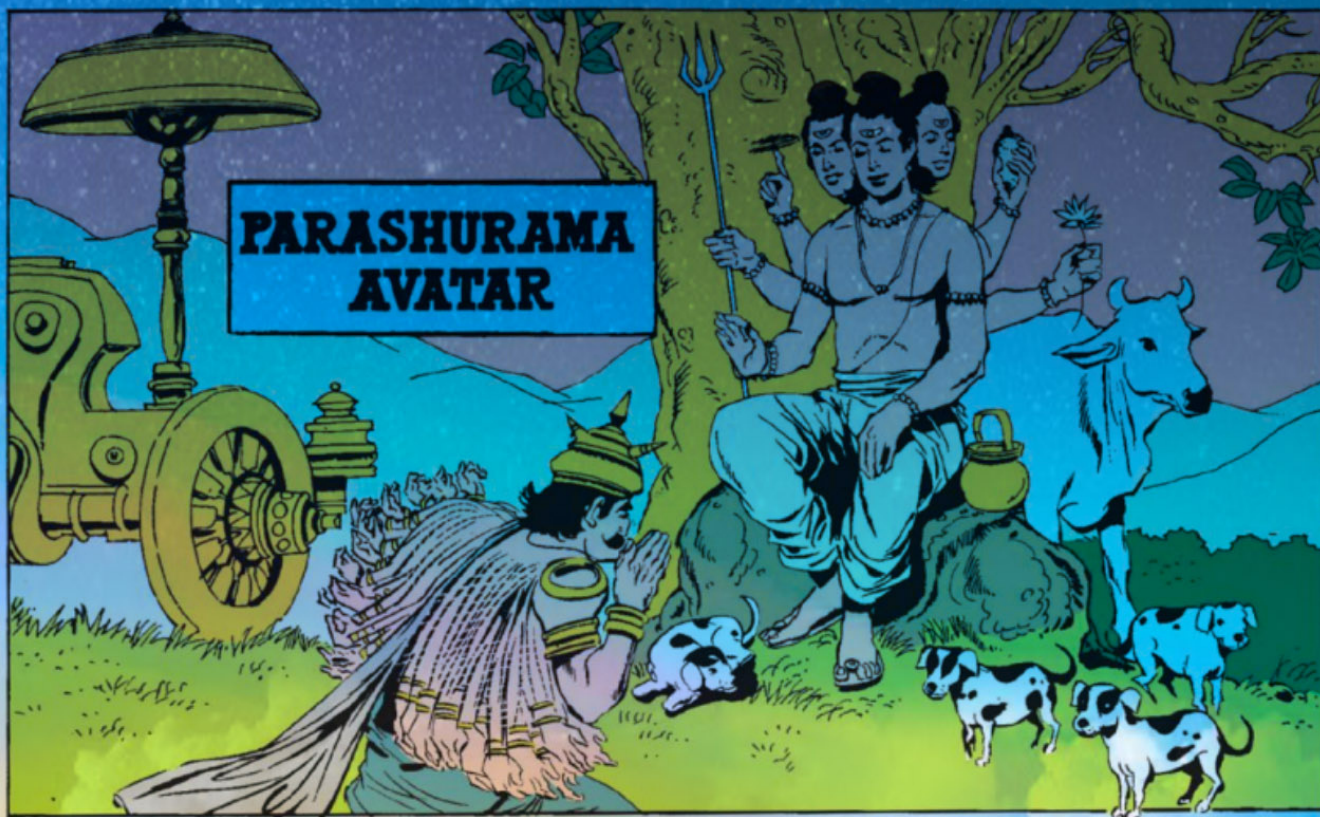
This month 'A TO Z INDIA' time-travelling mouse, Max, finds out about the first successful ascent of Mount Everest...



Parasurama Avatar An Incarnation of Lord Vishnu

Shiva





PARASHURAMA AVATAR

KING ARJUNA, THE RULER OF THE HAIHAYAS, HAD PROPITIATED LORD DATTATREYA AND HAD SECURED FROM HIM BOONS WHICH MADE HIM INVINCIBLE. BUT ARJUNA MISUSED HIS POWERS AND BECAME A MERCILESS TYRANT.

TO VANQUISH HIM AND ALL SUCH EVIL KSHATRIYAS, LORD VISHNU CAME TO EARTH AS RAMA, THE YOUNGEST SON OF SAGE JAMADAGNI, AND HIS WIFE, RENUKA.



IT'S STRANGE THAT
MY SON SHOULD KNOW
SO MUCH ABOUT
WEAPONS AND
THEIR USE.

IT WAS TRUE. THOUGH RAMA WAS THE SON OF A BRAHMAN, HE HAD AN INORDINATE LOVE FOR WEAPONS AND HIS FAVOURITE WAS THE AXE.



ONE DAY, WHILE PARASHURAMA* AND HIS BROTHERS WERE AWAY, ARJUNA ENTERED JAMADAGNI'S HERMITAGE.



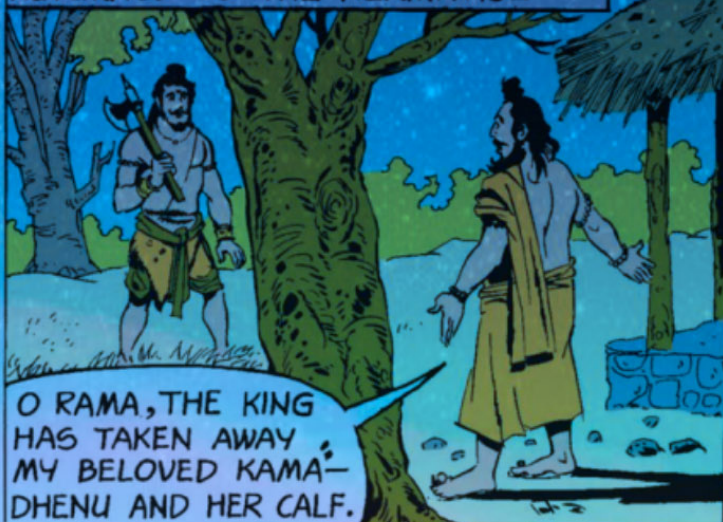
BUT WHEN ARJUNA AND HIS MEN WERE FED —



HE TURNED TO HIS MEN.



A FEW DAYS LATER, WHEN PARASHURAMA RETURNED TO THE HERMITAGE —

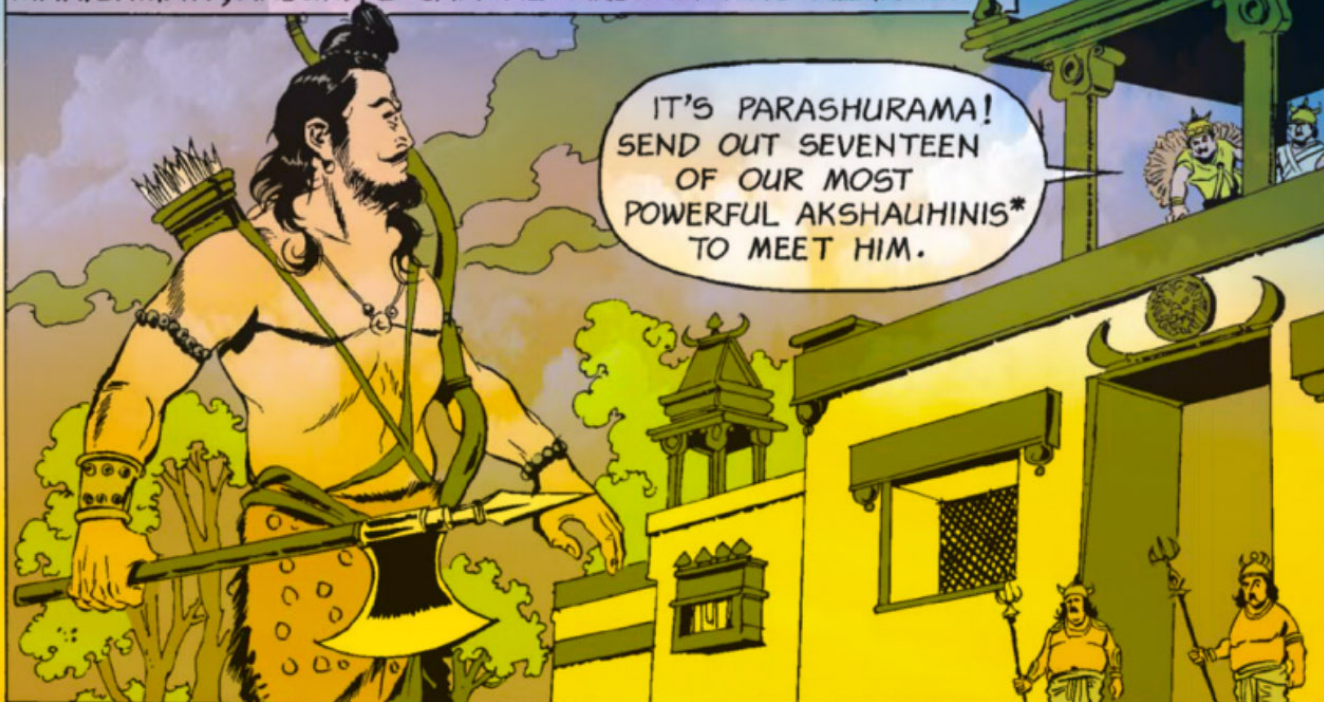


O RAMA, THE KING HAS TAKEN AWAY MY BELOVED KAMA-DHENU AND HER CALF.



HOW DARE HE COMMIT SUCH A SACRILEGE! I SHALL DEAL WITH HIM.

BRANDISHING HIS AXE, AN ENRAGED PARASHURAMA STORMED INTO MAHISHMATI, ARJUNA'S CAPITAL. ARJUNA WAS ALARMED.



IT'S PARASHURAMA! SEND OUT SEVENTEEN OF OUR MOST POWERFUL AKSHAUHNIS* TO MEET HIM.

BUT THE TERRIBLE PARASHURAMA DESTROYED THEM IN NO TIME. NOT A SINGLE MAN ESCAPED ALIVE.



ENRAGED AT THE DESTRUCTION OF THE CORE OF HIS ARMY, ARJUNA HIMSELF RUSHED FORWARD. BUT —



AS ARJUNA RUSHED TOWARDS HIM WITH UPROOTED TREES AND ROCKS, PARASHURAMA LOPPED OFF ALL HIS ARMS ...



...AND THEN BROUGHT HIS AXE DOWN ON THE TYRANT'S NECK.



PARASHURAMA THEN LED KAMADHENU AND HER CALF TO HIS FATHER.



AND LIFE IN THE HERMITAGE WENT ON AS BEFORE.



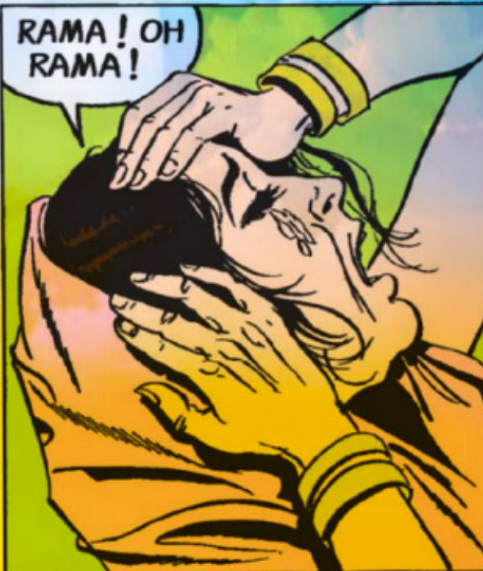
BUT NOT FOR LONG. THE SONS OF ARJUNA WERE BENT ON AVENGING THE DEATH OF THEIR FATHER. ONE DAY, WHILE PARASHURAMA WAS AWAY IN THE WOODS...



...THEY FELL UPON THE SAGE AND CUT OFF HIS HEAD.



RAMA! OH RAMA!



MEANWHILE, PARASHURAMA WAS ON HIS WAY BACK TO THE HERMITAGE. SUDDENLY —



WHEN PARASHURAMA REACHED THE HERMITAGE, HE WAS AGHAST.

MOTHER! WHO WERE THE FOUL MURDERERS? TELL ME, MOTHER!

RAMA! OH RAMA! RAMA!



BUT RENUKA'S AGONY WAS SO DEEP THAT SHE COULD ONLY BEAT HER BREAST AND CRY. FULL OF GRIEF AND ANGER, PARASHURAMA MADE A VOW.

TWENTY-ONE TIMES HAVE YOU BEATEN YOUR BREAST, MOTHER. I SHALL WIPE OUT THE VILE RACE OF THE KSHATRIYAS AS MANY TIMES.



AND, GRIPPING HIS AXE, PARASHURAMA SET OUT TO ACCOMPLISH THE REST OF THE TASK FOR WHICH HE HAD COME TO EARTH.



THUS DID LORD VISHNU, AS PARASHURAMA, EXTERMINATE THOSE KSHATRIYAS WHO HAD BECOME A GREAT BURDEN TO BHOOMIDEVI AND HER CHILDREN.



உணவகம் ஒன்றில் இருந்த பலகையில், "இங்கு நீங்கள் எதை வேண்டுமானாலும், எவ்வளவு வேண்டுமானாலும் சாப்பிடுங்கள்!.... அதற்கான தொகையை உங்கள் கொள்ளுப் பேரனிடமிருந்து நாங்கள் பெற்றுக்கொள்ளத் தயாராக இருக்கிறோம்!" என்று எழுதியிருந்தது.

அதையாரும் பொருட்படுத்தவில்லை. அவரவர்கள் சாப்பிட்டுவிட்டு, புன்னகையுடன் பணத்தைக் கொடுத்துவிட்டுச் சென்றார்கள்.

அதிக ஓசை!

நார்கள். ராமு அந்த உணவகத்திற்குள் நுழைந்தான். பலகையில் எழுதியிருந்ததைப் பார்த்தான். அவனுக்கு சந்தோஷமாகிவிட்டது. கொள்ளுப் பேரனிடம்தானே வாங்கிக்கொள்ளப் போகிறார்கள்.... என்று எண்ணி வேண்டும்வரை வயிறு முட்ட சாப்பிட்டான்.

சேவகரோ அவனிடம் தொகை எழுதிய சிட்டை நீட்டினார்.

ராமு அவரை விநோதமாகப் பார்த்தவாறு, "என்ன இது?... அங்கே அறிவிப்புப் பலகையில், சாப்பிட்டதற்கான தொகையை கொள்ளுப் பேரனிடம் வாங்கிக் கொள்வதாக எழுதிவிட்டு இப்போ பணம் கேக்கிறீர்களே?" என்றான்.

சேவகர் பொறுமையாக, "இது நீங்கள் சாப்பிட்டதற்கு அல்ல!.... உங்கள் கொள்ளுத் தாத்தா சாப்பிட்டதற்கான தொகை"

ராமு வேறுவழியில்லாமல், வாயடைத்தவாறு பணத்தைச் செலுத்திவிட்டுச் சென்றான்.

வேடனும் களியும்!

வேட்டைக்காரன் வனவேந்தனின் மகள் கிளி வளர்க்க ஆசைப்பட்டாள். கிளியைத் தேடிக்காட்டிற்குள் சென்றான். அங்கு ஒரு ஜோடிக் கிளிகளைக் கண்டான். அதில் அகப்பட்ட பெண் கிளியைப் பிடித்துக் கூண்டில் அடைத்துக் கொண்டு வந்தான் வனவேந்தன். மகளும் மனமகிழ்ச்சியுடன் அதை வாங்கிக்கொண்டாள். கிளி இருந்த கூண்டை ஒரு மரத்தில் தொங்கவிட்டாள்.

கிளிக்கோ அது சற்றும் பிடிக்கவில்லை. காட்டில் ஜோடியாக, சுதந்திரமாகப் பறந்த தன்னை இப்படி கூண்டில் அடைத்து விட்டார்களே என்று வருத்தமும், கோபமுமாக இருந்தது. மேலும் தன் கணவன் கிளிக்கு என்ன ஆயிற்றோ என்று வருத்தமுற்றது. அங்கிருந்து தப்பிக்க எண்ணியது.

ஒரு நாள் கூண்டிற்கு அருகே ஒரு கிளி மரத்தில் வந்து அமர்ந்தது. புதிதாக வந்த கிளியைப் பார்த்தது. கூண்டில் இருந்த கிளி. இரண்டும் ஏதோதோ பேசிக்கொண்டன.

வேட்டைக்காரன் புதிதாக வந்த கிளியைப் பார்த்துவிட்டான். அதைப் பிடிக்க எண்ணினான். அதைத் துரத்திக்கொண்டு ஓடினான். அங்கிருந்த மரங்களில் மாறி மாறி அமர்ந்தது அந்த ஆண் கிளி!

"அதைப் பிடிக்காதீங்க!.... அதுதான் என் கணவன்!.... விட்டுடுங்க!" என்று சுத்தியது பெண் கிளி. ஒரு மரத்தின் கிளையில் அமர்ந்த அந்தக் கிளி மயங்கிக் கீழே விழுந்து இறந்தது போல நடத்தது.

வனவேந்தனோ அதை அருகிலிருந்த குப்பையில் போட்டுவிட்டான்.

"என்ன?... ரொம்ப வருத்தமாயிருக்கா?... நான் உங்க ரெண்டுபேரையும் ஒரே கூண்டில் வளர்க்கலாம்னு



நெனைச்சேன்!.... ஆனா அது செத்துப் போச்சு!.... நான் அதைக் கொல்லலே!.... தப்பா நெனைக்கதே" என்று பெண்கிளியிடம் கூறினான் வனவேந்தன்.

"அப்போ!... செத்துப் போச்சா!" என்று மயங்கியவாறு கூண்டில் விழுந்து விட்டது பெண்கிளி!

"அடப் பாவமே!.... இந்தக் கிளியும் செத்துப் போச்சா!" என்று கூண்டிலிருந்த பெண்கிளியை விரல்களால் கண்டிப்பார்த்தான் வனவேந்தன்.

ம்ஹூம்.... கிளி அசையவில்லை. கிளியை அப்படியே எடுத்துக் கொண்டுபோய் ஆண்கிளியைப் போட்ட குப்பையிலேயே போட்டான் வனவேந்தன்.

போட்டதுதான் தாமதம் இரண்டு கிளிகளும் சட்டெனப் பறந்தன! தான் தப்பிக்க ஒரு வழியைக் காண்பித்த ஆண்கிளிக்கு நன்றி சொன்னவாறே அதனுடன் சந்தோஷமாகப் பறந்தது பெண்கிளி!

Vahanas

or the vehicles of the goddesses are of great importance in our puranas. Besides carrying the goddesses across different worlds, the vahanas also add to their significance and power.

Saraswati, the goddess of learning, rides a swan. The swan signifies detachment. Like the swan that keeps itself dry even when in water, knowledge detaches a person from the material world even while living in it.

Durga, the goddess who destroys evil, rides a lion. The lion was given to her by Himavan, the king of the Himalayas, and represents her majesty and fierceness.

Rati, the goddess of love and desire, has a parrot for her vahana.

The goddess of wealth, **Lakshmi**, is depicted riding either an elephant or an owl. The elephant represents royalty and splendour, while the owl signifies misfortune that Lakshmi overpowers and dispels.

Shitala, the feared goddess of smallpox, rides on a donkey.

The river goddess **Ganga** rides a makara, a mythical creature with the body of a crocodile and an elephant's trunk for a snout.

Shashti, the protector of children, has a black cat for her vahana.

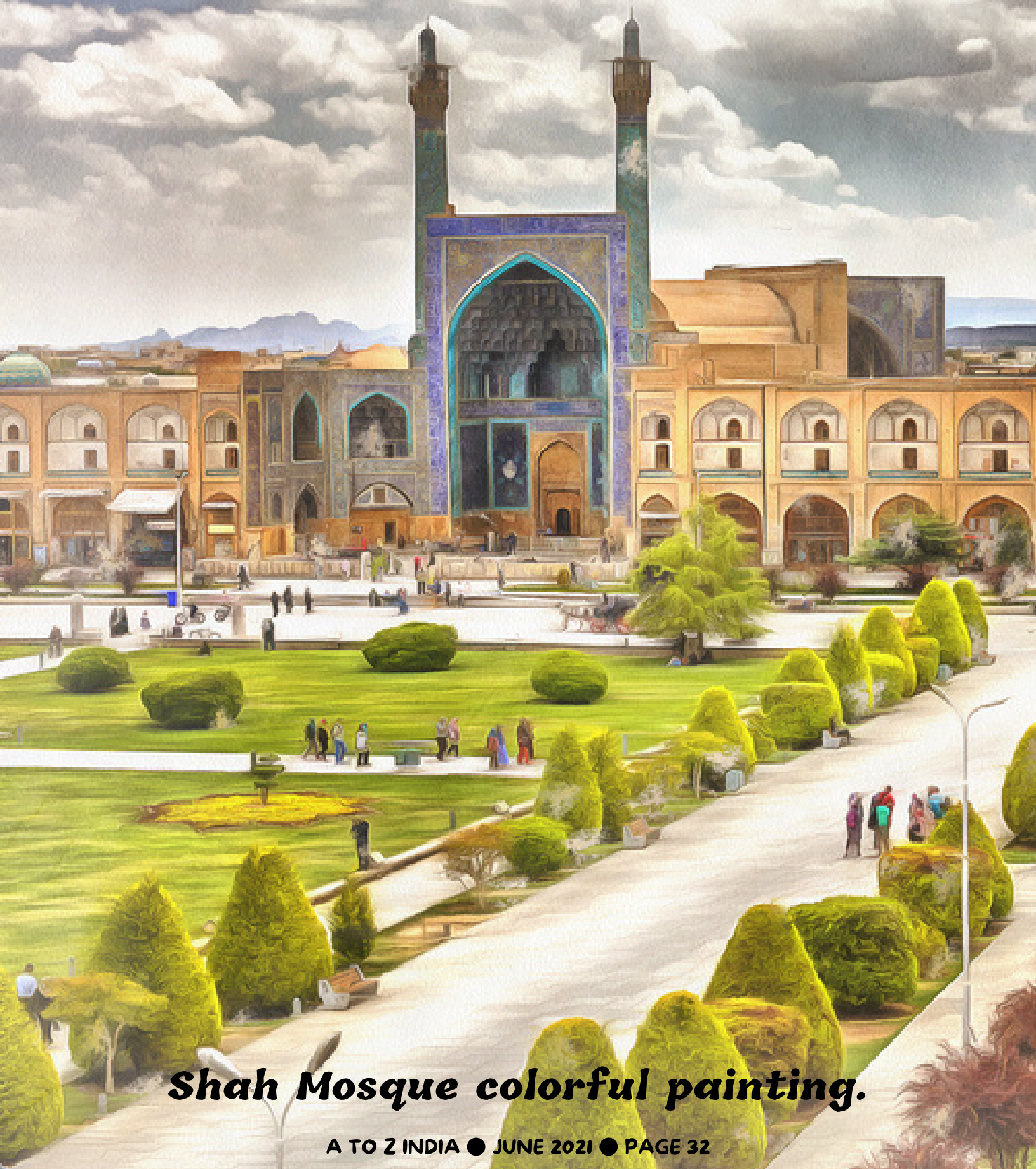
Yamuna's vahana is a tortoise. It signifies calmness and is associated with Kurma, the avatar Vishnu took during the churning of the ocean.



***Colorful painting of Jama Masjid
mosque Fatehpur Sikri India.***



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Shah Mosque colorful painting.